



# GROWING STRAWBERRIES in Eastern Canada

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## WEED CONTROL

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Weeds in strawberries can cost a grower as much as \$100 per acre. They cost money because:

- They reduce yields by competing with the strawberry plants for light, water and soil nutrients.
- They make frequent cultivation and expensive hand weeding necessary.
- They harbor insect and disease pests that may harm the crop.
- They slow down harvesting operations.
- They may force growers to abandon plantings.

You can avoid all this by following an efficient program to control weeds. For best results, combine cultivation with the use of chemical weed killers.

## CONTROL WITH CULTIVATION

To help keep weeds down the first year, cultivate the land often the year before planting strawberries. This has to be done to control perennial weeds such as couchgrass, or twitchgrass. You can keep annual weeds under control the first year by mechanical cultivation and hand hoeing. However, if the strawberries are grown in matted rows, hand hoeing becomes almost impossible in the second year.

Self-propelled hoes do a good job of cultivating and their cost is justified for a large plantation. For a small plantation, however, chemical control is more practical.

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<sup>1</sup>Plant Research Institute.

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Control of weeds in strawberries with sesone applied at 4 pounds per acre.

## CONTROL WITH CHEMICALS

Chemical control of weeds is cheaper than either mechanical or hand hoeing. Also, the chemical weed killers that are now available can control weeds during wet weather. This is important because cultivation of wet soil may transplant many weeds.

### Before Applying Chemicals

It is a good idea to consult your local agricultural representative or agronomist to make sure that the chemical you plan to use is recommended for your area. Also, since control recommendations change as more research is done, he may suggest newer chemicals than those given here. Once you have chosen the weed killer:

- Calibrate your sprayer accurately.
- Be sure the weeds and the strawberry plants are at the proper stage for treatment.
- Read the directions on the label and follow them carefully.

### Chemicals to Use

*Sesone*.—One application of sesone controls annual weeds fairly well for 3 to 4 weeks. Apply it 7 to 12 days after planting. Use 2 to 4 pounds of the material in 35 to 50 gallons of water per acre (use the higher rates on heavier soils).

Cultivate immediately before applying this weed killer as it is effective only on weeds that emerge after it is applied. For best results, apply it to moist soil when the temperature is 65 to 85° F.

Make later applications as necessary, but do not apply sesone during flowering or runnering or after September 1.

*2,4-D*.—Use 2,4-D amine to kill annual broadleaved weeds that emerge in the first year. Apply it at  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of the acid equivalent in 10 to 20 gallons of water per acre. To clean up the field after the fruit is harvested, increase the rate to 1 pound per acre.

Do not apply 2,4-D during flowering or runnering or after September 1.

*DNBP and CIPC*.—Apply DNBP amine or CIPC only when it is absolutely necessary to control severe infestations of chickweed and winter-annual weeds in dormant established plants. These chemicals injure strawberry plants that are not completely

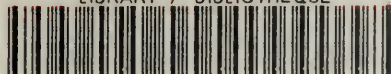
dormant, so do not apply either of them until November, after the first heavy fall frost. Use 3 to 6 pounds of the active ingredient of DNBP amine, or 2 to 3 pounds of CIPC, in 35 to 40 gallons of water per acre.

*Granular DNBP*.—This chemical shows promise in controlling annual weeds in established strawberry plantings.

## CONTROL WITH GEESSE

Some growers use geese successfully to help control weeds in strawberries, but others feel they are more of a nuisance than a benefit. Goslings clean up tender young weeds, especially grass seedlings.

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